AFTER COVID-19:
Equipment Disinfection Services

As businesses across the globe resume operations following COVID-19 shutdowns, many will want to ensure employee and customer safety by having work environments sterilized. If your organization provides disinfection services, it is imperative to keep in mind how these solutions will impact the surfaces being addressed.

There are hundreds of chemicals that can properly neutralize the spike protein in the coronavirus. Countertops, treated metal fixtures such as door handles, plastic assemblies and many other types of non-porous materials will fare well even after repeated applications or agitation with wipes.

Studies conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conclude that electronic equipment physically degrades and functionally malfunctions when exposed to disinfecting agents that contain chlorine dioxide or hydrogen peroxide, two of several disinfecting agents researched, as examples.[1]

EQUIPMENT DISINFECTION

Equipment can be divided into two categories: high-touch surfaces and circuitry that does not get touched unless it is being maintained or repaired.

- High-touch equipment surfaces should be addressed by spraying a sterilizing solution into a cloth/wipe and then hand agitating/cleaning the surface.
- If control circuitry was exposed, applying heat for a period of time should be employed rather than introducing corrosive disinfectants.

AVOID FUMIGATING, FOGGING OR ELECTROSTATIC SPRAYING EQUIPMENT

If an area requires fumigation, fogging or electrostatic spraying, the following actions should be employed:

- Gracefully power off equipment as an abrupt shutdown will cause software corruption.
- Cover equipment properly.
- Do not uncover the equipment until the airborne chemicals no longer exist in the environment.

DECONTAMINATION & RECONDITIONING OF EQUIPMENT, ELECTRONICS & ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS

- AREPA employs professional decontamination techniques to mitigate sensitive equipment deterioration within complex technical installations. AREPA ensures that post decontamination, equipment will meet published industry standards[2] that are adhered to by original equipment manufacturers.
- AREPA facilitates testing, repairs and recalibration.

1. EPA/600/R-14/316, September 2014, Assessment of the impact of decontamination fumigants on electronic equipment.
2. IPC J-STD-001G Requirements for soldered electrical and electronic assemblies.

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